

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1177,
STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns with S. 1177—the Every Student Succeeds Act. I cast my vote in favor of the Every Student Succeeds Act because I believe it is an improvement from No Child Left Behind (NCLB), our nation's current law. However, I strongly believe this legislation falls short in many areas—specifically resource equity, federal authority, and data disaggregation for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students.

While I am pleased that S. 1177 requires schools where students are consistently struggling to report on resource inequities, it does not hold states accountable for these inequities. States with dramatic investment disparities will be required only to identify gaps, not necessarily to close them.

Additionally, this legislation significantly limits secretarial authority by relinquishing much of the responsibility for monitoring and enforcing protections for vulnerable students from the federal government to the states. History shows us that strong federal oversight compelled states to identify and address achievement gaps faced by minority and low-income students. Without this strong oversight, I am concerned that these vulnerable groups will once again fall through the cracks.

Finally, I am very disappointed that S. 1177 does not require that data collected and reported on AAPI students be disaggregated by ethnic subgroups. As the Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), I have worked to combat the so-called “model minority myth,” which leads people to believe that AAPI students are all high-achieving and successful. In reality, the AAPI population includes over 40 distinct ethnic groups who speak over 100 different languages. However, this diversity in experience and success is often masked when data is not disaggregated by AAPI subgroups. As a result, many AAPI students fail to receive resources that would help them succeed academically.

I believe that S. 1177 is an improvement over the patchwork system our country is currently operating under in the wake of NCLB, but it falls short on the promise to serve all of our children. I will continue to work to ensure that every child, regardless of economic background, race, gender, sexual orientation, family history, or ability receives a free, high-quality education that enables them to achieve the American Dream.

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SPEECH OF

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Every Student Succeeds

Act (ESSA). It has been 14 years since the last reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and we have desperately needed an update to this critical law. The 2001 No Child Left Behind Act included unworkable provisions and led to the proliferation of high-stakes testing. In order to manage the impact of the law's strict provisions, the federal government has granted waivers to 40 states, resulting in unpredictability and unequal application of the law. The ESSA will correct our previous mistakes by maintaining high standards while giving states and local school districts greater flexibility in achieving them with evidence-based strategies.

At its core, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act is a civil rights law that reflects our society's consensus that every state and school district must provide a quality education to all children. In order to fulfill this promise, we must have sufficient information to measure inequities in educational achievement for all groups, and we must ensure states and local governments are taking the steps necessary to close those achievement gaps. For that reason, I am very concerned that the ESSA lacks data disaggregation for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students. The AAPI community is extremely diverse with over 48 distinct ethnic groups that face varying challenges in educational achievement. The lack of data disaggregation will prevent us from determining what gaps exist and how best to address them.

Additionally, I am concerned by the lack of key provisions from the Safe Schools Improvement Act and the Student Non-Discrimination Act. I have cosponsored these important pieces of legislation because more must be done to address the harmful effects of bullying and discrimination, particularly for LGBT students. No child should be denied a quality education due to his or her race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socioeconomic status. This bill takes important steps in the right direction, but the lack of AAPI data disaggregation and important LGBT protections shows there is much work to be done to achieve this goal. I look forward to working with my colleagues to address these flaws.

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STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, as I've stated before, this conference report is not the bill I would have written on my own. It is a product of compromise, but a product that did not require either side to compromise on our core beliefs. A core belief of mine—and a core belief of my caucus—is that Congress deems authority to the executive branch to interpret, implement, and enforce federal law. That is the foundational tenet of administrative law.

Although some provisions included in the conference report seek to limit the regulatory power of the Department of Education, nothing in this conference report will inhibit or impede the Secretary's authority—as granted by the Constitution—to interpret, implement, and en-

force compliance with the Federal law, including the Secretary's authority to promulgate regulations that clarify and interpret vague statutory terms. Those provisions were carefully negotiated between the Chair and me.

The Every Student Succeeds Act provides states with new flexibility to design systems that hold schools accountable for improving student outcomes, but the Federal government is ultimately responsible for protecting the civil rights of all students. To fulfill that responsibility, the Secretary of Education will maintain regulatory, oversight, and enforcement authority sufficient to fully implement this new law.

HONORING THE DAMASCUS HIGH
SCHOOL SWARMIN' HORNETS

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Damascus High School Swarmin' Hornets for capturing the 2015 Maryland Class 3A State Football Championship last week in Baltimore. The victory by Damascus capped a perfect 14–0 season and is the school's eighth state championship. I'd like to congratulate the Swarmin' Hornets, Coach Eric Wallich and his staff, and everyone associated with the team who made this championship season possible.

The Swarmin' Hornets defeated Dundalk 55–14, a dominating victory that included a record-setting performance by running back Jake Funk, who broke the state mark for touchdowns in a championship game. The team also set the state record for the most points scored in a season. As the Washington Post headline made clear, the Swarmin' Hornets left “no doubt” that they were the best team in the state.

Importantly, the team reached these heights after facing adversity and heartbreak. Last season, the team was defeated in the championship game, but rebounded with an even stronger performance in 2015. That experience—working together for months to persevere and accomplish a goal even after a painful setback—will inform and inspire the young people who compose this team for years to come.

The Damascus community is extremely proud of their team and their achievement, excellence and perseverance should be permanently reflected in the official record of the House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF SHELDON SCHLESINGER

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of my dear, longtime friend Mr. Sheldon “Shelly” Schlesinger of Broward County, Florida, who sadly passed away on Wednesday, December 2nd at age 85. Shelly was born in Brooklyn, New York, and later moved to Florida where he attended the University of Miami and the University of Miami School of Law, and met his wife of 60 years Barbara.

Shelly's passion for the law and his skills in the courtroom were unrivaled. He practiced for 60 years and worked on landmark cases across the nation representing individuals and consumers. Shelly was recognized in every edition of the book "The Best Lawyers in America" throughout his career. His other honors include induction into the Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame and receipt of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Florida Verdicts Hall of Fame by the Daily Business Review.

Shelly was not only celebrated for being one of the best trial attorneys in the country, but also fervently served the South Florida community. He was a member of the Board of Governors of Nova Southeastern Law Center and chairman of the Board of Trustees of Broward Community College. Shelly was also one of the founders of the Broward County Trial Lawyers Association and served as the organization's president.

I offer my deepest condolences to Shelly's family. He is survived by his two sons, Scott (m. Anne) and Gregg, as well as his six grandchildren, Charlotte, Alexander, Molly, Theodora, Samuel, and Theodore; and his brother-in-law, Larry Butler (m. Grace).

His presence will be profoundly missed, however his impact in the sphere of law and public service will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay my respects to Sheldon Schlesinger and his family. He was a great friend to me throughout the years. His spirit, loving memory, and legacy will always live on.

HONORING ANDREW LETTERMAN

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrew Letterman for being awarded the American FFA Degree as a member of the National FFA Organization. Andrew is a member of the Willow Springs Chapter of the FFA and, with four of its other members, received this prestigious award. FFA is an intercurricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership consisting of 629,367 members, aged 12–21. Andrew is among the 463 FFA members from Missouri that received the American FFA degree, marking the highest number of recipients from any state.

As a past recipient of the American FFA Degree, I offer my highest congratulations as I understand the hard work and effort required to reach this goal. In order to obtain the American FFA Degree, a member must begin their pursuit of the award during their freshman year of high school through participation in every level of the organization and leadership events.

As a former member of FFA, I can proudly say that my experience in the organization was invaluable learning about leadership skills and public speaking. It is my pleasure to recognize Andrew for receiving this prominent award before the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING RICK FLYNN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rick Flynn, who is well known as an advocate for educators in Macomb County, Michigan. On December 10th, friends of Rick's from throughout Michigan will gather to celebrate his retirement from the Michigan Education Association and to pay tribute to him for his outstanding service.

Rick's deep involvement in the MEA and his policy advocacy at the local, state and national levels has been rooted in his strong conviction that all students deserve a high quality education, and that educators must have the tools and resources they need to provide students with this education. It has been said that Rick has held nearly every conceivable leadership position in the MEA, which, when one reviews his career, seems possible. He served as president of the Fraser Education Association, as a founding member and then as president of MEA-NEA Local 1, as a member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee for the MEA, as an MEA Local 1 Executive Director, and as a member of the NEA's Board of Directors.

Prior to representing teachers, Rick was a well-respected teacher himself. For 27 years he taught American Government in the Fraser Public Schools. As a lifelong advocate for building a stronger Macomb County, it was no surprise that after retiring from the classroom in 2000, Rick applied his knowledge of government to public service of his own. In 2008, he was elected to the Charter Commission for Macomb County, which reshaped government in Michigan's 3rd largest county. Also in 2008, he was appointed by then-Governor Jennifer Granholm to serve on the Oakland University Board of Trustees, where he continues to serve today.

Mr. Speaker, Rick Flynn has served students in Michigan and his fellow education professionals with total commitment and distinction. I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting him for his service, in thanking his wife Linda and his sons Andy and David for supporting him throughout his career, and in wishing him well in his retirement from the MEA.

CONGRATULATING TREVOR LOGAN AND TERRY LAMBERT ON THEIR SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT CITIZEN SERVICE HONORS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Trevor Logan on being awarded the Springfield Police Department's Citizen Service Medal and Terry Lambert on being awarded the Springfield Police Department's Citizen Service Commendation for their actions on the morning of August 2, 2015.

On that morning both men witnessed an individual drag a woman into an alley and attempt to sexually assault her. Terry, believing

officers were just down the street, quickly rushed to alert them of what he had observed. However, Terry was unable to locate any officers, so he returned to the alley. Before he had returned, Trevor had verbally confronted the suspect and the suspect began to flee. While Trevor continued to assist the victim, Terry followed the suspect and helped officers locate him.

Trevor Logan and Terry Lambert stopped a crime in progress and assisted officers in apprehending and identifying the suspect. Through their actions, both of these men exemplified what it means to be a responsible, upstanding citizen. This example of selflessness and commitment to protecting one's community that these men have embodied is one which we should all strive for.

Mr. Speaker, Trevor Logan and Terry Lambert deserve this body's utmost respect for heroic actions on the morning of August 2, 2015, and I extend to both of them my deepest appreciation for their dedication to ensuring the safety of their community. Their efforts have not only contributed greatly to the Springfield community, but have made me proud to serve the people of Missouri's seventh Congressional District.

THE RETIREMENT OF DR. WILLIAM E. "BRIT" KIRWAN

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend Brit Kirwan on the occasion of his retirement as Chancellor of the University System of Maryland.

Brit is a true Terp, beginning his career as an assistant professor at the University of Maryland, College Park before rising to serve as its President in 1989. For the past 12 years, he has been Chancellor of the University System, where his passion for education and sincere desire to improve the lives and opportunity for Maryland students leaves an indelible mark on our state. He is also a respected national voice on higher education issues, helping to shape policy for greater accessibility, affordability, and quality.

It has been a great privilege to know and work with Brit over the years. His leadership has been transformative—opening the doors of higher education to underrepresented communities, establishing new partnerships with federal agencies, local schools, and the private sector, and ensuring that the University System of Maryland is a dynamic place of learning. I have always valued his thoughtful counsel.

Many of us were sorry to see Brit leave Maryland in 1998 when he became president of Ohio State University, but we were happy to welcome him back home in 2002. Now, as Brit takes his well-deserved retirement, his legacy is felt by every student who steps on a Maryland campus. I thank him for his many years of service, and wish him all the best.